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Response to Office Action

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 12 and 17 (and corresponding computer program storage medium claims 19 and 21) have been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby the document processing apparatus comprises judging means for judging whether a virtual printer or an actual printer is designated when a printing process operation of document data is selected, and print control means for printing said document data on the actual printer when said judging means judges that the actual printer is designated, and whereby virtual document data is created for document data when the virtual printer is designated. See the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 12, lines 4-16 and page 18, line 8 - page 15, line 8).

In addition, claim 13 has been amended to better accord with amended independent claim 12.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 12, 13, 17, 19 and 21 be approved and entered.

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THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 12, 17, 19, and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 6,327,599 B1 (previously cited "Warmus et al") and USP 6,480,866 (previously cited "Mastie"), and claims 13 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obviosu in view of the combination of Warmus et al, and Mastie, and USP 5,588,103 (previously cited "Aoyagi") or USP 6,470,363 (previously cited "Kanerva et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

Independent claims 12, 17, 19 and 21 have been amended to more clearly distinguish between designating an _actual_ printer and designating a _virtual_ printer.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 12, 17, 19 and 21, if an _actual_ printer is designated when selecting a printing process for document data, then the document data is printed.

However, when a _virtual_ printer is designated, the document data is obtained as virtual document data (claims 12 and 19), or the document data is converted into a drawing record so as to form virtual document data (claims 17 and 21). And according to the claimed present invention, once the virtual document data has been created from a plurality of different types of application programs and stored, individual pages are selected from virtual

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document data from the different application programs and are
arranged in an arbitrarily selected order. The individual pages
from the various application programs are then outputted in the
new order.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references
relate only to designating an actual printer as an output
destination for print data.

The Examiner continues to contend that the bitmap conversion
of Warmus et al corresponds to the designation of a virtual
printer according to the present invention. As recited in the
amended independent claims, however, the designation of an actual
printer and the designation of a virtual printer are clearly two
different designations that result in two different outcomes
(immediate output for printing in the case of designating an
actual printer, and the creation and editing of virtual document
data in the case of designating a virtual printer).

As pointed out in the Amendment filed on April 14, 2005, the
bitmap creation of Warmus et al is achieved by sending data to an
actual printing system to print data. Therefore, it is
respectfully submitted that the bitmap creation of Warmus et al
merely corresponds to the conventional operation of selecting an
actual printer and printing document data.

On page 7 of the Office Action, moreover, the Examiner
asserts that the conversion of a WordPerfect (.wpd) document into

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a Word (.doc) document and renumbering of pages in the newly

created Word document corresponds to the renumbering of pages of

document data created by different application programs as

recited in claims 12 and 19.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that according to

the claimed present invention, the editing of virtual document

data takes place only after a virtual printer has been designated

when selecting a printing process operation such that virtual

document data is created.

By contrast, according to the Examiner's suggested example

using WordPerfect and Word documents, no designation of _any_

printer (virtual or actual) is involved before the conversion of

the WordPerfect document into the Word document or the

renumbering of pages. It is respectfully submitted, therefore,

that the Examiner's example of converting a WordPerfect document

into a Word document is _completely_ unrelated to the claimed

present invention.

It is again respectfully pointed out that, as explained in

the Amendment filed on April 14, 2005, the processing described

in Warmus et al at column 8, lines 9-12, column 8, line 57 to

column 9, line 3 and column 9, lines 57-59, which the Examiner

contends corresponds to the processing of the virtual document

data of the claimed present invention, all takes place before the

bitmap data is created. That is, this processing of Warmus et al

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is performed before the bitmap data (that is, what the Examiner contends is "virtual document data" in Warmus et al) is even created.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 12, 13, 17, 19 and 21, and claim 18 depending from claim 17, now <u>clearly</u> patentably distinguishes over all of the cited references, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 103.

* *

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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